

Library Quarterly

FALL 2025

Author Spotlight Series p.2

How Libraries Fuel Nonprofit Growth p.3

New Library Catalog p.10



the magazine of the Vernon Area Public Library



Message from the Director

Dear Community:

Exciting developments are happening this fall at your library. First, after months of coordination, the library catalog will "go live" with a big upgrade starting September 3.

The new catalog is easier to use, has great new features like text notifications, and -- best of all -- provides easy access to so many more materials thanks to a really smart interlibrary partnership.

We are thrilled to unveil this upgrade, which provides exceptional benefits while also being fiscally smart. Sharing the catalog expenses with other libraries minimizes that part of our budget while maximizing use of our materials. Read all about it on pages 10–11 of this issue.

In addition to the behind-the-scenes work that has been taking place for the catalog, staff and the board have been moving the library building project forward.

Our architects have been working on concepts to improve the library space based on community feedback collected in 2024. Architects will return to the library on September 29, October 23, and October 24 to share initial designs. They want to know what they got right and what they missed so the new building plan is the best for our community.

We want your input! This is your library. Watch for details and announcements on the library website, email newsletters, and on social media about ways you can weigh in.

Thank you, and happy autumn!



Vernon Area Public Library

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New: Dedicate a Book

A new "Dedicate a Book" program offered by the Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library District lets you celebrate loved ones while supporting your library at the same time.

For a donation of \$50 or more, you can dedicate a book in someone's honor. You can pick a specific title from the library catalog or let a librarian choose a suitable new book. Each dedicated book gets a special bookplate with your name, the honoree's name, and the occasion you are celebrating — whether it's a birthday, anniversary, graduation, new baby, retirement, or even a beloved pet's memory.

Getting started is easy. Just visit VAPLD.info/foundation to fill out the form with your details, or stop by the library to fill out a paper form and drop off a check. When your bookplate is in place, we will send you a photo to share with the honoree. Or we can put the item on hold for you to be the first to check out the newly dedicated book.

Every great story deserves a dedication page. Add yours to the library collection for all to see.



Community Events

Connect with us at these fall events for information, activities, and giveaways.

Buffalo Grove Green Fair

Sunday, September 21, 8 am–12:30 pm

🌿 Mike Rylko Park

Buffalo Grove Diwali Festival

Friday, October 3, 5:30–7:30 pm

🏠 Community Arts Center

Lincolnshire Boo Bash

Friday, October 24, 5–8 pm

🌿 North Park



VERNON AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Exclusive Online Interviews with Today's Most Compelling Authors

New "Author Spotlight" Series Connects You With Today's Most Talked-About Authors

Starting in September, Vernon Area is joining the Library Speakers Consortium, expanding our lineup of online programs featuring your favorite authors. Enjoy 2–3 livestreamed events each month, highlighting both fiction and nonfiction writers you won't want to miss.

Can't make the event live? No problem! Registered attendees will receive a link to the recorded program. Or catch recordings of over 100 past events any time—and see the upcoming schedule at [VAPLD.info/AuthorSpotlight](https://vapld.info/AuthorSpotlight). For a more interactive experience, submit questions for the author when you register, or ask live during the event.

Past speakers include bestselling authors like Lori Gottlieb, Shelby Van Pelt, Freida McFadden, Fredrik Backman, and John Irving. You'll also find interviews with Smithsonian curators, researchers, and educators on topics like Mars, tropical bats, the national gem collection, pandemics, and more.

Stay up-to-date on the latest additions to the author lineup by subscribing to our Author Spotlight newsletter at: [VAPLD.info/subscribe-spotlight](https://vapld.info/subscribe-spotlight).

Upcoming Author Spotlight Events

Hannah Nicole Maehrer, *Accomplice to the Villain*

Wednesday, September 3, 6–7 pm [Z](#)

Jefferson Fisher, Communication Expert

Wednesday, September 10, 1–2 pm [Z](#)

Gabe Henry, *Enough is Enuf*

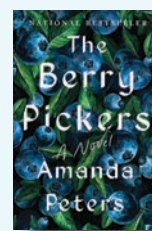
Wednesday, September 17, 1–2 pm [Z](#)

Smithsonian Latino Center, *Nuestra America*

Thursday, October 2, 1–2 pm [Z](#)

Leigh Bardugo, *Six of Crows*

Thursday, October 9, 6–7 pm [Z](#)



Phillipa Gregory, *Boleyn Traitor*

Wednesday, October 29, 1–2 pm [Z](#)

Joseph Lee, *Nothing More of This Land*

Wednesday, November 5, 1–2 pm [Z](#)

Amanda Peters, *The Berry Pickers*

Thursday, November 13, 6–7 pm [Z](#)

Mission Possible: How Libraries Fuel Nonprofit Growth



Interview with Ashley Johnson,
Community Engagement &
Partnerships Librarian

Libraries and nonprofits are a perfect match—both aim to provide needed services in their communities. It makes sense that when working together, these organizations can do even more for the greater good.

At Vernon Area, librarian Ashley Johnson works directly with nonprofit and mission-based organizations to help them learn how to use the resources available at the library. Through one-on-one meetings with nonprofits and their leaders, Johnson provides guidance, support, and community connections to help organizations reach their goals.

We sat down with Ashley to learn more about her role, how nonprofit organizations can take advantage of the library's resources, and how she helps them take the next step to growing their impact.

Q: What kinds of services or programs does the library offer to nonprofits?

Over the years, nonprofit services have really developed. At first it was just a collection of books, and now we have multiple digital resources, like Foundation Directory Online, that people can use with their Vernon Area library card or while in the library to access grants, consumer information, and lots of detailed data that can answer their questions. Or [through one-on-one meetings], they can get a better picture of ways they can solve the issues they're dealing with every day at their organizations.

Q: What have been some of your greatest joys since working with nonprofits through the library?

Working with nonprofits is probably the biggest joy I have in my job here. I've worked with teens who are interested in starting a nonprofit on their own. I've worked with new nonprofits who are just looking for ways to develop and bolster their board. And I've also worked with established nonprofits who are looking for creative ways to develop fundraising campaigns and diversify the way they bring in funds. Meeting new people every day is the best part of it.

Q: What upcoming events do you have for people working with or interested in working with nonprofits?

I like to think of it as a suite of services. We do things for nonprofit leaders, people who are considering becoming board members, people who are volunteers. We've really tried to build out an opportunity for anyone in the community at any point in their early adulthood on to find a way to engage in their community and participate in a philanthropic mission that really fulfills a passion for them and makes them feel really good.

Q: How does the library's work with nonprofits connect with its strategic plan?

Part of the library's strategic plan is to create a sense of belonging. Again, that idea of community—community-building and community relationships—I think really gets to the essence of what it means to belong. Personally for the work I do as a librarian, knowing the people that are doing the work is a benefit to me. It's an asset to me because I can help people connect and do work together, which then creates this collaboration that's really powerful and can impact the communities as well when we work together to complete this mission-based work.

Success Story: How One Organization Found Grant Success with Library Support

Mothers Trust Foundation (MTF) is steadfast in its mission to provide immediate resources during times of crisis to low-income children and their families in Lake County.

In 2020, Ellen Marwede, MTF's Director of Development, began working with Ashley to help with a foundation prospecting search using Foundation Directory Online. The service would be costly to access, but through the library, MTF could use it for free.

"Having access to [Foundation Directory] makes us more strategic and effective," said Ellen. "It is an invaluable time-saver for our small nonprofit staff allowing us to focus on helping the kids and families who need us most."

MTF has received nearly \$120,000 in new funding from the Foundation Directory grant prospects to date. They developed funding partnerships with most of these new funders, resulting in MTF receiving funding annually.

Featured Resources *for adults*



PRACTICE ENGLISH WITH A PARTNER

Make an appointment to practice conversational English 1-on-1 for free. Meet in person or online for 45 minutes with a volunteer.

Learn more at VAPLD.info/LearnEnglish



WORLD LANGUAGE E-BOOKS AVAILABLE

NEW! Read fiction and nonfiction e-books in Chinese, Korean, Russian, Polish, or Spanish on a Kindle or using the Libby app.

VAPLD.info/world-languages



FREE WALL STREET JOURNAL ACCESS

Get direct, paywall-free access to the *Wall Street Journal* online using your library card.

VAPLD.info/WSJ

Classes & Events *for adults*

Note location with each event (🏠 in person, 🌐 online, 🌿 outdoors). Some events offer both in-person and streaming options for attendance. All events are free and open to all. Signup is required unless otherwise noted. Sign up at VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1485.

Hollywood Style: Icons of Fashion

Film Historian Dr. Annette Bochenek presents the daring wardrobe choices and revolutionary makeup innovations of classic Hollywood stars, as well as their legacies today.

Thursday, September 4, 1–2 pm 🏠

Meet the New Library Catalog!

Drop by the library cafe/lobby to learn about exciting features of the new library catalog. Learn how to seamlessly request materials from VAPLD and 31 CCS member libraries, sign up for text/email notifications, save your reading history, and more.

Thursday, September 4, 6–8 pm 🏠

Saturday, September 6, 2–4 pm 🏠

Monday, September 8, 1–3 pm 🏠

Wednesday, September 24, 2–4 pm 🏠

Behind the Scenes of *Catch Me If You Can* at the Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre

Members of the artistic and production team from the Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre share the process behind their current production, *Catch Me If You Can*, a musical comedy set in the 1960s about chasing your dreams and not getting caught.

Monday, September 8, 7–8 pm 🏠

What to Know When Your Child Turns 18

Explore what you need to know when your child turns 18, and what needs to be put in place to protect you and your young adult. Presented by Shire Law Group, in partnership with SHS Family Engagement, and the Vernon Area Public Library.

Tuesday, September 9, 6–7 pm 🏠

Autumn in the Smoky Mountains

Learn about this world-renowned national park, popular attractions, and the highly diverse animal and plant life with travel expert Nancy McCully.

Wednesday, September 10, 1–2 pm 🏠

I-PASS On Demand

Get a new battery-free I-PASS sticker at the library at no cost from the Illinois Tollway I-PASS team. Ready to use 24 hours after activation.

Saturday, September 13, 9 am–1:30 pm 🏠

Mobile Passport

Apply for a new passport. Renew your old one. Get your passport photos. Bring necessary required documents.

Saturday, September 13, 9 am–1:30 pm 🏠

Nonprofit Board Expo & Recruitment Event

Give back to your community by serving on a board. Learn what nonprofit mission-based organizations are looking for in potential board members. Presented in partnership with Lake County Community Foundation and GiveNKind. More info at VAPLD.info/NonprofitExpo.

Wednesday, September 17, 6–8:30 pm 🏛️

Mindful Movements

Explore your body's natural rhythm and flow in this gentle movement session. Certified instructor Stephanie Kaczynski leads a calming session to enrich your everyday well-being.

Sunday, September 21, 1–2 pm 🏛️

Blood Drive

One blood donation can save up to three lives. Make an impact on our community by donating blood. Hosted by Versiti Blood Center of Illinois. Registration is recommended; walk-ins accepted if slots are open.

Thursday, September 25, 12–5 pm 🏛️

International Travel Tips: Things to Know from a Pro

Learn how to navigate new visa regulations, strikes, other travel disruptions, and more from world traveler and journalist Meena Thiruvengadam.

Monday, September 29, 7–8 pm 🏛️

Professional Headshots

Make your social media and business pages stand out with a professional headshot. Come photo-ready to get your headshot taken and delivered to your email inbox. First come, first served. No signup required.

Wednesday, October 1, 11:30 am–2 pm 🏛️

Seed Packing Social

Help prep for the March 2026 return of the Seed Library with a hands-on seed-packing party. Drop in as you can or come for the whole two hours. No green thumb required!

Friday, October 3, 1–3 pm 🏛️

Wednesday, November 5, 6:30–8:30 pm 🏛️

Sunday, December 7, 2–4 pm 🏛️

Concert: The Internationals

Bring your family to enjoy an afternoon of music, dance, and revelry when The Internationals perform folk music from Ukraine, plus additional world music. This program is part of MOSAIC, a premier series of cultural programs for adults.

Sunday, October 5, 1–2 pm 🏛️

A Spin Around the Globe

World traveler and educator Brian Michalski returns for a spectacular look at adventures in Europe and Asia.

Monday, October 6, 1–2 pm 🏛️

ChatGPT for Job-Seekers

Understand the pros and cons of using ChatGPT from an employer's perspective with Jeremy Schifeling, former hiring manager at LinkedIn and Khan Academy.

Monday, October 6, 7–8 pm 🌐

Avoid Fraud & Scams

Stay ahead of increasingly sophisticated scams—hear local examples and prevention tips from Lincolnshire Police. Learn how to recognize common tactics used by scammers, protect your personal information, and report suspicious activity.

Wednesday, October 8, 1–2 pm 🏛️



Concert with The Internationals, October 5



Lillianna Wosko, November 2

Understanding Medicare Choices

Get a better understanding of the choices available to you during open enrollment. Benefits advisor Mike Altman provides an overview and answers your questions.

Thursday, October 9, 6:30–7:30 pm

Chicago's Architecture Critic Examines Outdoor Parks

Lee Bey, author and architecture critic for the *Chicago Sun-Times* and ABC7 Chicago, looks at the latest developments in Chicago's parks and outdoor spaces, including the spectacular DuSable Park along Lake Shore Drive and the much-anticipated Obama Presidential Center in Jackson Park.

Monday, October 13, 1–2 pm

Parent Education: AI in the Classroom

Schools and students are exploring both the opportunities and challenges of using AI in the classroom. Learn how AI is being integrated and what expectations exist for students in a panel discussion with technology leaders from District 102, District 103, Stevenson High School, and a Stevenson student.

Tuesday, October 21, 7–8 pm

Shakespeare Project of Chicago Presents *All's Well That Ends Well*

The professional players of the Shakespeare Project of Chicago present a full, theatrical reading in the first performance of our 2025-2026 series. The pre-show introduction begins at 6:15 pm.

Monday, October 27, 6:30–9 pm

Financial Strategies for Uncertain Times

Facing financial hardship or worried about the future? Learn practical strategies for managing expenses, prioritizing bills, finding assistance programs, and protecting your long-term finances.

Wednesday, October 29, 6:30–7:30 pm

Community Art Jam

Drop by the Youth Department for a Mini Comic Con-themed Community Art Jam with local artist Justin Castaneda.

Saturday, November 1, 1–2 pm

Cello Performance with Lillianna Wosko

Accomplished cellist Lillianna Wosko performs a diverse selection of solo classical, modern, and jazz pieces.

Sunday, November 2, 1–2 pm

Art Workshop: Discover the Art of Mosaic

Unleash your creativity in a hands-on mosaic workshop where you'll design your own unique piece using colorful tiles and ceramic pieces.

Monday, November 3, 6:30–8:30 pm

Frida Kahlo: A Woman Who Dared

Through original songs, stunning projected visuals, and evocative storytelling, celebrate the life, art, and spirit of iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo with singer and songwriter Linda Marie Smith.

Thursday, November 6, 1–2:15 pm

The Iconic Murals of Pilsen

Explore the vibrant murals of Pilsen, the Midwest's mural capital, and their powerful reflection of Mexican history, culture, and struggles. Longtime guide and resident Luis Tubensearn shares insight into the artwork's political and socio-economic significance.

Monday, November 10, 1–2 pm

Delicious Vegan Desserts

Learn the ins and outs of vegan baking with cookbook author and recipe developer Emily Paster. Emily discusses the many plant-based substitutes for dairy and eggs, as well as possible pitfalls to avoid.

Tuesday, November 11, 7–8 pm

News Media, Truth, and Trust

Daily Herald opinion editor and columnist Jim Slusher examines the scope of today's news media landscape and offer tips for finding reliable sources and identifying those with their own special agenda. Jim also shares an excerpt from his new book *To Nudge The World: Conversations, Community and the Role of the Newspaper*.

Tuesday, November 18, 7–8 pm



The Iconic Murals of Pilsen, November 10

Maker & Technology Classes

Microsoft Word

Choose the sessions that interest you.

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 pm 🏠

September 24: Basics

October 1: Formatting

October 8: Working with Objects

Open Makerspace

Stop by to work on personalized crafts. We won't be teaching any new skills, but supplies will be available for sublimation printing and other projects.

Friday, September 26, 2–4 pm 🏠

Tuesday, October 14, 2–4 pm 🏠

Thursday, October 30, 2–4 pm 🏠

Thursday, November 20, 6:30–8:30 pm 🏠



Maker Class: Crochet a Pumpkin

Learn how to crochet a stuffed pumpkin with materials provided by the library. Class is suitable for all levels of crochet experience.

Thursday, October 9, 6:30–8:30 pm 🏠

Microsoft Excel

Choose the sessions that interest you.

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 pm 🏠

October 21: Basics

October 28: Formulas & Functions

November 4: Functions 2

November 11: Functions 3

November 18: Pivot Tables

Microsoft PowerPoint

Learn to use this popular presentation tool.

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 pm 🏠

October 22: Ready To Go

October 29: Animations & Transitions

Meetups & Discussions

Spinning Yarns: Knit & Crochet Group

Connect with fellow yarn lovers in a friendly and creative space at the library. Bring your supplies to work on your project. All levels welcome.

Wednesdays, 10–11 am 🏠

September 10, October 1, November 5

Book Discussion with Judy Levin

Read and discuss intriguing selections beyond the best sellers.

Thursdays, 10–11:30 am 🏠

September 11: *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

October 9: *James* by Percival Everett

November 13: *The Wide Wide Sea* by Hampton Sides

Writers' Support Group

Share work, meet fellow writers, get constructive feedback, and discuss the publishing business in this informal group. All writers welcome.

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 pm 🌐

September 11, October 23, November 13

Great Decisions Discussion Group

Discuss critical global issues from the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions book with facilitator Gary Midkiff. *In-person sessions are full.*

Fridays, 1–2:30 pm 🌐

September 12, October 10, November 14

Reel Talk Movie Discussion

Use your library card to check out or stream the film in advance, then log on to share your thoughts.

Fridays, 3:30–4:30 pm 🌐

September 12: *Side Effects* (R)

November 21: *Affliction* (R)

English Language Learners Conversation Group

Practice your English conversation skills with a librarian and other non-native English speakers.

Tuesdays, 11 am–12 pm 🏠

September 16, 30; October 7, 21; November 4, 18

Novel Night Book Discussion

Read and discuss.

Tuesdays, 7–8:15 pm 🏠

September 16: *Frankie* by Graham Norton

November 18: *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller

Thirsty Thursdays: Books on Tap

In your 20s or 30s and thirsting for intelligent conversation with excellent people? Meet for a book discussion at the Chatterbox of Long Grove with excellent people over adult beverages and delicious food.

Thursdays, 6–8 pm 🏠 The Chatterbox, Long Grove

September 18, October 16, November 20

Off the Hook: Knit & Crochet Group

Craft in the company of other crafters, online. Work on your own project, share ideas, and socialize. All skill levels welcome.

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 pm 🌐

September 23, October 28, November 18

Memory Café

Connect monthly with other individuals with memory loss and their caregivers for activities and socialization in a safe, supportive environment.

Thursdays, 2–3 pm 🏠 Alcott Center, Buffalo Grove

September 25, October 23, November 20

Games for Grown-ups

Play tabletop games together at the library or online. Open to all skill levels.

Sundays, 12:30–4:30 pm 🏠 🌐

September 28; October 12, 26; November 16

Choose Your Own Adventure: A Book Club

Silently read your own book or audiobook for an hour, then choose to continue reading or chat with others. Some snacks will be provided, or bring your own.

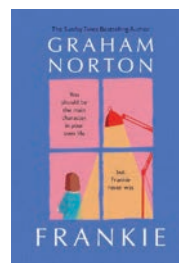
Monday, October 6, 6:30–8:30 pm 🏠

Wednesday, November 19, 6:30–8:30 pm 🏠

World Language Movie Discussion: *Thelma*

Stream or borrow the movie with your library card, then discuss with fellow international cinema fans.

Wednesday, October 29, 7–8 pm 🌐



LIBRARIAN PICKS

Crime Time Reading

Ready for the next great mystery or thriller? Whether you prefer cozy, quirky reads or heart-pounding page-turners, we've picked some standout crime novels to add to your to-read list. These titles also count for Branch Out, our yearlong reading challenge, and there's still time to participate! Find out more at VAPLD.info/BranchOut.

Murder Mysteries



A Murder for Miss Hortense

Mel Pennant



The Marigold Cottages Murder Collective

Jo Nichols



History Lessons

Zoe B. Wallbrook



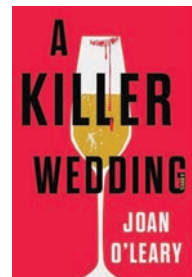
High Season

Katie Bishop



Party of Liars

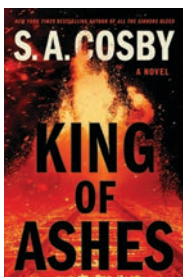
Kelsey Cox



A Killer Wedding

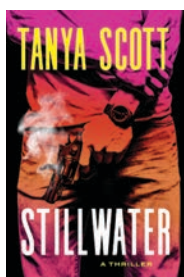
Joan O'Leary

Gritty Crime Fiction



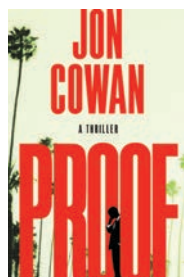
King of Ashes

S.A. Crosby



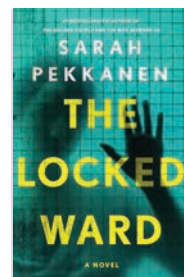
Stillwater

Tanya Scott



Proof

Jon Cowan



The Locked Ward

Sarah Pekkanen



Someone Knows

Vi Keeland



So Happy Together

Olivia Worley

For Fans of Freida McFadden



Same card. Better benefits.

Library catalog upgrade coming September 3

Big changes are almost here! Starting September 3, the Vernon Area Public Library catalog will connect to Cooperative Computer Services (CCS) — a network of more than 30 local libraries that share materials through a common catalog.

The upgrade will provide Vernon Area Public Library cardholders with access to millions more items, faster fulfillment for holds, a new online catalog with great new features, and more.

More Materials: After the upgrade, VAPLD cardholders will have access to over 5 million items from libraries like Elmhurst Area, Indian Trails, and Northbrook — all searchable from the Vernon Area catalog. If the book you want isn't on the shelf here, you can request it from any other CCS library. They will send it for you to pick up here or at any other CCS location you choose.

Shorter Wait Times: When you place a hold on an item, your request is filled using the first available copy, no matter which library owns it. This results in faster fulfillment of hold requests; many in just a few days.

Easier Visits to Other Libraries: Your Vernon Area library card will automatically work at any CCS library. Check out materials when you visit any CCS library location with no extra sign-up needed.

Software Upgrade: The new catalog software is easier to use, mobile-friendly, and includes text notifications — a feature that many of you have asked for!

Smart Use of Budget: Sharing catalog expenses with other libraries keeps our costs down while boosting the use and value of our materials.

Other things won't change. All your favorite services, programs, and friendly faces stay the same. As a Vernon Area Library cardholder, you'll continue to enjoy priority access to materials owned by this library, including new releases and Popular Picks reserved exclusively for our cardholders. And of course, you'll continue to enjoy no overdue fines and automatic renewals when available.

The upgrade represents a major step forward in how we serve our community! By joining this cooperative, we are able to offer you access to resources that would be impossible for any single library to provide on its own.

Learn more at

» VAPLD.info/NewCatalog



Mark Your Calendar

In August: Get Ready!

- ✔ Stop by the Checkout Desk to confirm your account information, especially if anything has changed recently.
- ✔ Put your library card in your wallet. Library staff will not be able to look it up for you during the transition week.
- ✔ Place holds through August 27. New requests will be unavailable for a few days during the switchover.
- ✔ Print or email yourself any lists from your library account; they will not move over to the new catalog. (You may have received an email about this if it applies to you.)

August 28–September 2: Catalog offline

The library catalog and My Account will be offline during the switchover.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✔ Yes! Uninterrupted access to: | ✖ Unavailable August 28–September 2: |
| • Check out materials in person (<i>you must bring your library card</i>). | • No new holds. |
| • Return materials. | • No access to library catalog. |
| • Pick up holds that are ready. | • Login to My Account unavailable. |
| • Check out e-books and digital audiobooks from Hoopla, CloudLibrary, or Libby. | • Services that use your library card for login may be temporarily unavailable. |
| • Sign up for a library card. | |

September: Meet the New Library Catalog

Drop by the information table in the library lobby to learn about the exciting features of the new library catalog. Learn how to seamlessly request materials from Vernon Area or any of the CCS partner libraries, sign up for text/email notifications, save your reading history, and more.

Thursday, September 4, 6–8 pm 
Saturday, September 6, 2–4 pm 

Monday, September 8, 1–3 pm 
Wednesday, September 24, 2–4 pm 



Your new library network includes:

- Algonquin
- Cary
- Crystal Lake
- Des Plaines
- Ela Area
- Evanston
- Fox River Valley
- Fremont
- Glencoe
- Glenview
- Grayslake
- Highland Park
- Huntley
- Indian Trails
- Lake Forest
- Lake Villa
- Lincolnwood
- McHenry
- Morton Grove
- Mount Prospect
- Niles-Maine
- Northbrook
- Palatine
- Park Ridge
- Prospect Heights
- Round Lake
- Vernon Area
- Warren-Newport
- Waukegan
- Wilmette
- Winnetka-Northfield
- Zion-Benton

Classes & Events *for teens*

Note location with each event (🏠 in person, 🌐 online). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required, starting 30 days in advance, unless otherwise noted. Sign up at [VAPLD.info/calendar](https://vapl.org/info/calendar) or call 224-543-1486.

Rebecca Caudill Award Book Discussion GRADES 6–8

A copy of the book (yours to keep) is reserved when you register.

7–8 pm 🏠

Wed, Sep 10: *The Bellwoods Game* by Celia Krampien

Thu, Nov 6: *Medusa: The Myth of Monsters* by Katherine Marsh

Cook Along with Chef Kristyn THRU GRADE 8

Add some fun to Friday night by cooking along with the group from home on Zoom.

Fridays, 7–8 pm 🌐

September 12: Breakfast for Dinner

October 17: Blondies & Brownies

November 21: *Wicked-Inspired Recipes*

Off the Page: A Teen Book Club GRADES 8–12

Love to read? Meet at Culver's and add your voice to the banter while enjoying frozen custard (our treat!)

Mondays, 7–8:15 pm 🏠 Culver's of Lincolnshire

September 15: *A Magic Steeped in Poison* by Judy I. Lin

October 27: *Their Vicious Games* by Joelle Wellington

November 17: *Himawari House* by Harmony Becker

Period Party GRADES 4–12

Learn about the menstrual cycle and the changes that take place during puberty from a local healthcare professional. Customize an emergency period supplies pack to take home and for Keeping Families Covered. All genders welcome.

Tuesday, September 16, 6:30–8 pm 🏠

Drop-In Art ALL AGES

Drop in for a sticker mosaic and coloring.

Saturdays, 10 am–4 pm 🏠

September 20, October 25, November 29

Friday, November 28, 10 am–4 pm 🏠

Chess GRADES 5–8

Discover chess moves, strategies, and checkmate techniques with National Chess Master Arjun Vishnuvardhan of Glenview Chess. All experience levels welcome.

Wednesday, September 24, 6:30–7:30 pm 🏠

Seed Packing Social TEENS & ADULTS

Prep for the Seed Library with a hands-on seed-packing party. Drop in as you can. All are welcome—no green thumb required!

Friday, October 3, 1–3 pm 🏠

Wednesday, November 5, 6:30–8:30 pm 🏠

Sunday, December 7, 2–4 pm 🏠

Macramé Bookmarks GRADES 6–12

Design and create a beautiful, textured bookmark that will make a practical and personalized keepsake (or a thoughtful gift!). We'll provide all the colorful cords and handy tools you'll need.

Wednesday, October 8, 7–8 pm 🏠



Author Spotlight: Leigh Bardugo, *Six of Crows*

See pg. 2 for more info on this interactive author interview.

Thursday, October 9, 6–7 pm 🌐

AI in the Classroom TEENS & PARENTS

Schools and students are exploring both the opportunities and challenges of using AI in the classroom. Learn how AI is being integrated and what expectations exist for students in a panel discussion with technology leaders from District 102, District 103, Stevenson High School, and a Stevenson student.

Tuesday, October 21, 7–8 pm 🏠

Teen Service Club GRADES 7–12

Meet new people, participate in a variety of community service projects and earn volunteer service hours when it fits your schedule. No application, no training, and no library card needed.

Wednesday, October 22, 7–8 pm 🏠

Community Art Jam ALL AGES

Drop by the Youth Department for a Mini Comic Con-themed Community Art Jam with local artist Justin Castaneda.

Saturday, November 1, 1–2 pm 🏠

Python Basics GRADES 6–12

Learn the basics of Python coding and how to use it for practical applications.

Wednesday, November 12, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm 🏠

Mini Comic Con ALL AGES

Visit [VAPLD.info/MiniComicCon](https://vapl.org/info/MiniComicCon) for details.

Saturday, November 15, 10 am–3 pm 🏠

Chess Challenge Meetup GRADES 5–8

Challenge a friend to a game of chess! Test your knowledge, sharpen your skills, and meet new friends.

Tuesday, November 25, 7–8:15 pm 🏠

Featured Resources *for elementary-aged kids*



RESEARCH HELP

Search thousands of encyclopedia entries, dictionary, atlas, maps, news sources, and citations on any topic for reports, projects, or other assignments.
[VAPLD.info/ScholasticGo](https://vapld.info/ScholasticGo)



TUMBLEBOOKS

Instantly access e-books, including new and classic picture books, nonfiction, graphic novels, and read-alongs for children.
[VAPLD.info/Tumblebook](https://vapld.info/Tumblebook)



STREAM KIDS CONTENT FOR FREE

Watch and stream TV shows, books, movies, and more for free with Kanopy Kids. Available online or with the Kanopy app.
[VAPLD.info/KanopyKids](https://vapld.info/KanopyKids)

Classes & Events *for elementary-aged kids*

Note location with each event (🏠 in person, 📺 online, 🌿 outdoors). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required, starting 30 days in advance, unless otherwise noted. Sign up at [VAPLD.info/calendar](https://vapld.info/calendar) or call 224-543-1486.

Take & Make Craft Kits **ALL AGES**

Stop by the library each month for instructions and supplies to make a craft. Available while supplies last beginning:

September 5: Library Adventure Book
 October 3: Sparkly Spider & Web

Family Concerts **ALL AGES**

Enjoy performances by nationally acclaimed children's musicians.

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am

September 6: The Dreamtree Shakers 🌿

November 1: Alina Celeste & Mi Amigo Hamlet 🏠

Calligraphy Workshop with SHS Chinese Honor Society **GRADES K-5**

Explore Chinese culture through calligraphy and traditional stories. Presented in partnership with Stevenson High School National Chinese Honor Society.

Thursday, September 11, 6–7:30 pm 🏠

Cook Along with Chef Kristyn **GRADES K-8**

Add some fun to Friday night by cooking along with the group from home on Zoom.

Fridays, 7–8 pm 📺

September 12: Breakfast for Dinner

October 17: Blondies & Brownies

November 21: Wicked-Inspired Recipes



Alina Celeste & Mi Amigo Hamlet, November 1

Period Party GRADES 4–12

Learn about the menstrual cycle and the changes that take place during puberty from a local healthcare professional. Then customize an emergency period supplies pack to take home and pack a supply packet for Keeping Families Covered. All genders welcome.

Tuesday, September 16, 6:30–8 pm 🏛️

Drop-In Art ALL AGES

Drop in for a sticker mosaic and coloring. Children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturdays, 10 am–4 pm 🏛️

September 20, October 25, November 29

Friday, November 28, 10 am–4 pm 🏛️

Fall STEM Storytime GRADES K–2

Explore the ocean and the variety of life within it. Create an ocean zones jar and glow-in-the-dark lanternfish puppet to take home.

Monday, September 22, 4:30–5:15 pm 🏛️

Big Blue Blocks Play Date ALL AGES

Build and play using the library's big blue blocks. No signup required.

Tuesday, September 23, 9:30–11 am 🏛️

Chess GRADES 2–8

Discover chess moves, strategies, and checkmate techniques with National Chess Master Arjun Vishnuvardhan of Glenview Chess. All experience levels welcome.

Wednesday, September 24 🏛️

Grades 2–4: 5–6 pm

Grades 5–8: 6:30–7:30 pm

Lego Master Builders GRADES K–5

Love building with Legos? Work through a challenge, then let your imagination run wild during free building time.

Tuesday, September 30, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm 🏛️

Monstermania GRADES K–5

Unleash your creativity and join Miss Jane in creating your own monster for Halloween.

Tuesday, October 7 🏛️

Grades K–2: 4:30–5:30 pm

Grades 3–5: 7–8 pm

Lego Robotics GRADES K–5

Calling all Lego fans! Build and program the Smart Spinner model using the Lego Education WeDo software in this fun, hands-on program.

Monday, October 13 🏛️

Grades K–2: 4:30–5:30 pm

Grades 3–5: 7–8 pm

K9 Reading Buddies GRADES 1–5

Build confidence and encourage literacy as you read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Sign up for a 15-minute spot beginning 30 days before the program by calling 224-543-1486 or visiting the Youth Desk.

Wednesdays, 6:15–7:15 pm 🏛️

October 15, November 19

Earthquake Engineering GRADES 3–5

This hands-on STEM program will cover the physical forces that accompany earthquakes and some of the engineering strategies that are used to mitigate damage and save lives.

Thursday, October 16, 6:30–7:15 pm 🏛️

Diwali Dance Celebration GRADES K–5

Learn traditional Diwali dance steps with Meher Dance Company of Chicago then practice your moves in a group celebration.

Saturday, October 18, 11 am–12 pm 🏛️



Bats and Other Misunderstood Creatures, October 28



Community Art Jam, November 1

Parent Education: AI in the Classroom PARENTS

Schools and students are exploring both the opportunities and challenges of using AI in the classroom. Learn how AI is being integrated and what expectations exist for students in a panel discussion with technology leaders from District 102, District 103, Stevenson High School, and a Stevenson student.

Tuesday, October 21, 7–8 pm 🏠

Bats and Other Misunderstood Creatures GRADES K–5

Experience bats and other creatures with Incredible Bats and their animal ambassadors. Learn where these often misunderstood animals live, what they eat, and the vital contribution they make to our ecosystem.

Tuesday, October 28, 6–7 pm 🏠

Community Art Jam ALL AGES

Drop by the Youth Department for a Mini Comic Con-themed Community Art Jam with local artist Justin Castaneda.

Saturday, November 1, 1–2 pm 🏠

Create Art with Miss Jane GRADES K–5

Miss Jane will lead you in painting a red barn country scene in celebration of fall.

Tuesday, November 4 🏠

Grades K-2: 4:30–5:30 pm

Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

Dinovember with the T-Rexplorers GRADES K–5

Get excited about science and nature during this interactive program with authentic dinosaur bones. Learn about T-Rexplorer's latest dig and see some of their new fossil finds. Get here at 6:15 pm and meet special guest Ranger in the main parking lot before the program starts.

Wednesday, November 5, 6:30–7:30 pm 🏠

Mini Comic Con ALL AGES

Visit VAPLD.info/MiniComicCon for details.

Saturday, November 15, 10 am–3 pm 🏠

Family Travel Trivia GRADES K–5

Take a trip around the world as you match your family's knowledge of places both far and near during this multigenerational trivia competition.

Monday, November 24, 7–7:45 pm 🏠

Firefly Family Theatre: The Harvest Moon AGES 2–7

Celebrate fall with Spark the Firefly and her friends! Featuring puppets, original music, and interactive movement, there's something for all ages to enjoy.

Tuesday, November 25, 10–10:45 am 🏠

Chess Challenge Meetup GRADES 2–4

Challenge a friend to a game of chess! Test your knowledge, sharpen your skills, and meet new friends.

Tuesday, November 25, 4:30–5:45 pm 🏠



Monster Mash Bash, October 28

Classes & Events *for early childhood*

Drop In

It's easier than ever to make storytime part of your family's weekly routine. Drop in for the session that's right for your child's age. Claim an entry ticket when you arrive, then join the fun! Free and open to all.

Note location with each event (🏠 in person, 🌳 outdoors).

Baby Rhyme Storytime 0-14 MONTHS

Grow your baby's brain with songs, rhymes and books with Miss Kelsey. Then connect with neighbors while your baby plays with educational toys and socializes with others.

Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 am 🏠

September 3, 10, 24; October 1, 8, 22; November 5, 12, 26

Wiggling Ones 12-24 MONTHS

Add 30 minutes of joy to your week. Giggle, sing, and play along with your little one, other families, and Miss Julia.

Tuesdays, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am 🏠

September 2, 9, 16; October 7, 14, 21; November 4, 11, 18

Together 2s & 3s 2-3 YEARS

Share stories and learn sign language with Miss Sarah. Activities center around a letter of the day.

Mondays, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am 🏠

September 15, 22, 29; October 13, 20, 27; November 3, 10, 24

Preschool Storytime 3-5 YEARS

Get ready for school with Miss Emily by practicing the language, listening and pre-reading skills needed for kindergarten. Children attend without an adult.

Thursdays, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am 🏠

September 4, 11, 18; October 2, 9, 16; November 6, 13, 20

Starry Night Storytime AGES 0-6

Get out those last few wiggles during an evening storytime with Miss Julia.

Thursdays, 6-6:30 pm 🏠

September 4, October 23, November 13

Drop-In Art ALL AGES

Drop in for a sticker mosaic and coloring. Children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturdays, 10 am-4 pm 🏠

September 20, October 25, November 29

Friday, November 28, 10 am-4 pm 🏠

Big Blue Blocks Play Date ALL AGES

Build and play using the library's big blue blocks.

Tuesday, September 23, 9:30-11 am 🏠

Saturday Storytime AGES 0-6

Literacy begins at the library! Expert librarians use books, songs, and props that capture the attention of all ages. Perfect for working families, bookworms, wiggleworms, and everyone in between.

Saturday, October 11, 10-10:30 am 🏠

Monster Mash Bash AGES 3-5

Feeling slightly spooky? Join Miss Emily & Miss Julia for Halloween-themed stories, songs, and dancing! Costumes encouraged.

Tuesday, October 28, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am 🏠



Sign Up in Advance

Free and open to all. For these storytimes and events, sign up 30 days in advance at VAPLD.info/calendar, by telephone at 224-543-1486 or at any public service desk in the library. Note location with each event (🏠 in person, 🌿 outdoors).

Science Detectives AGES 3–6

This literature-based program encourages children and their adults to discover the world around them by engaging in hands-on science activities.

Fridays, 10–10:30 am 🏠

September 5: Tools

October 3: Bats

Family Concerts ALL AGES

Enjoy performances by nationally acclaimed children's musicians.

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am

September 6: The Dreamtree Shakers 🌿

November 1: Alina Celeste & Mi Amigo Hamlet 🏠

Bilingual Korean Storytime AGES 0–6

Enjoy stories and songs while exploring an introduction to Korean in this interactive storytime with The Language Labs.

Monday, September 8, 10–10:30 am 🏠

Tinker Around AGES 3–6

Explore and play with some screen-free tech. Learn about the collections available to you for checkout.

Friday, September 12, 10–10:45 am 🏠

Sunshine Squad AGES 0–6

Stories and activities focused on social-emotional development and cultural appreciation make the world a kinder, sunnier place for everyone.

10–10:45 am 🏠

Saturday, September 27: Being Brave

Friday, November 7: Attitude of Gratitude



Tinker Around, September 12



Science Detectives

Oaks & Acorns Storytime AGES 0–6

Bring your little acorn to a very special storytime at a local assisted living facility, Sunrise of Buffalo Grove. Home residents join an intergenerational experience that brings joy to everyone through song, stories and instruments.

Tuesday, September 30, 10–11 am 🏠 Sunrise of Buffalo Grove

American Sign Language Storytime AGES 0–6

Enjoy stories, songs, and explore an introduction to American Sign Language (ASL) in this interactive storytime with The Language Labs.

Friday, October 17, 10–10:30 am 🏠

Mini Math Magicians AGES 3–5

Explore math concepts through books, games, and activities with preschool pro Miss Emily.

Thursday, October 23, 10–10:30 am 🏠

Lil' Trick-or-Reading AGES 0–2.5 YEARS

Costumes welcome at this scary-less Halloween storytime followed by a trick-or-treating parade through the library. Siblings welcome.

Wednesday, October 29, 9:30–10:15 am or 11–11:45 am 🏠

Bilingual Spanish Storytime AGES 0–6

Enjoy stories, songs, and explore an introduction to Spanish in this interactive storytime with The Language Labs.

Saturday, November 22, 10–10:30 am 🏠

Firefly Family Theatre: The Harvest Moon AGES 2–7

Celebrate fall with Spark the Firefly and her friends! Featuring puppets, original music, and interactive movement, there's something for all ages to enjoy.

Tuesday, November 25, 10–10:45 am 🏠

Vernon Area Public Library
300 Olde Half Day Rd.
Lincolnshire, IL 60069-2901

August 28–September 2: Library Catalog Offline

Big catalog upgrades are coming to give you access to over 5 million items across a network of over 30 local libraries. See pages 10–11 for details on the offline period and what to expect with the new catalog.

Connect

VAPLD.info

Main: 847-634-3650

App: Look for Vernon Area Public Library in your device's App Store

Socials: Follow @vernonlibrary for updates and fun content



Get a Library Card

Free and available to all district residents. Apply online at VAPLD.info/card or visit.

Returns

Return materials 24/7 in front of the library or at these drop boxes:
VAPLD.info/bookdrops

Open

Monday–Thursday 9 am – 9 pm
Friday–Saturday 9 am – 5 pm
Sunday 10 am – 5 pm

"Mask required" self-service access is available daily during the 30 minutes before official public hours for anyone who needs or prefers an extra measure of protection.

Closed

August 31
September 1
September 19
November 26, close at 5 pm
November 27



Your Library. Your Voice.

We used the ideas and wishes you shared in 2024 to create conceptual plans to improve the library. Now we hope to hear from you again. Connect this fall to review those plans and tell us:

What do you like?

What could be better?

What matters most to you?

Join your neighbors and our architects at the library on **September 29, October 23, or October 24**. Find times and details, additional opportunities for input, or submit a focus group interest form at VAPLD.info/LibraryPlan.

This is **your** library. Your voice matters. Help us build the library that you want for your family and your world!

*This magazine is printed on recycled paper
made of 30% post-consumer waste.*

